

REMARKS

This amendment places the claims in better condition for allowance or appeal and, therefore, is appropriate for entry under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 4-7, 14-16 and 19-21 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8 and 17 have been amended. Claim 27 is newly added. The specification has been amended to fill in a missing application no. No new matter has been added.

In the Final Office Action, claims 25 and 26 stand allowed; claims 7, 16 and 21 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims were rejected.

In this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate essentially all of the limitations of dependent claims 4-7 (canceled). Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate essentially all of the limitations of dependent claims 20 and 21 (canceled). Dependent claims 14-16 (canceled) have been rewritten in independent form as new claim 27. All other rejected claims have been canceled.

Therefore, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

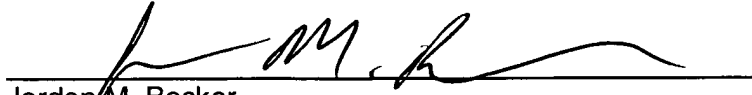
If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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